could bring the resistance of the Southern people to an end; that they had made up their minds to fight to the last, and that the issue, as framed by them, must be accepted by us, and the war prosecuted with the object of conquering them completely. It will not be denied that McClellan correctly apprehended the situation.

He then goes on to speak of his plans:

"The rebels have chosen Virginia as their battle-field, and it seems proper for us to make the first great struggle there."

Here again nothing can be sounder than the proposition of General McClellan. The shortest road to the enemy is generally the best. Let us, however, see how he goes on to develop his idea.

He next makes a number of suggestions,—most of them obviously judicious,—such as that "a strong movement be made on the Mississippi, and that the rebels be driven out of Missouri"; that East Tennessee be occupied; that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad be reopened and protected; and that West Virginia be made absolutely secure to the Union. He then proceeds:[1]

"For the main army of operations I urge the following composition:

	MEN.
250 regiments of infantry,—say—	225,000
100 field-batteries,—600 guns	15,000
28 regiments of cavalry	25,500
5 regiments engineer-troops	7,500

Total	273,000

[1] 5 W. R., 7.